

IN THE CLAIMS:

AI

1. (Currently Amended) Cutting apparatus comprising a base, cutting means for cutting an article of plate-like form received on said base, and guide means movable over the base to alter the position of the article relative to said cutting means, the guide means having respective portions at its opposite ends engageable with and releasable from respective opposite sides of the apparatus, one of said portions comprising two components relatively movable together and apart to clamp onto or release from part of one side of the apparatus, said cutting apparatus being characterised in that the one side of the apparatus is linked to the other of said portions by means of a mechanical connection that pulls and pushes the other of said portions into and out of engagement respectively with the other side of the apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1; wherein said one end portion of the guide means includes a locking lever pivotable to a first locking position and then to a further locking position.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 2; wherein said one side of the apparatus defines a grip bar, and said two components are a slideable member connected to said locking lever and at least one wing extending from the guide means, the ~~grip bar~~ slidable member and said wing having respective surfaces to clamp, in use, onto opposite surfaces of the grip bar to secure one end of the guide means in a fixed position relative to the base when the locking lever is in a first locking position.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 3; wherein said surface of the grip bar and the surface of the slideable member which clamps against it, in use, are formed with a plurality of ribs and at least one complementary engagement rib respectively or vice versa.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said surface of the grip bar and the surface of the wing which clamps against it, in use, are formed with a plurality of ribs and at least one complementary engagement rib or vice versa.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 3, wherein the slideable member is connected to the locking lever at a pivot pin.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the locking lever has cam means which, when the locking lever is moved from its unlocked to its first locking position, cause the slideable member to slide to take up clearance between itself and the grip bar, thereby to clamp onto the grip bar.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the other of said portions of the guide means is a clamp and said other side of the apparatus defines a lip, respective surfaces of the clamp and the lip engaging when the locking lever is moved to its further locking position.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the clamp is at one end of a slideable bar which extends across said base in a guide fence of the guide means, the other end of the bar having and the locking lever having interengaging projection and slot means respectively, or vice versa, movement of the locking lever to its further locking position effecting sliding of said bar to engage said clamp with said lip, thereby to secure said other end of the guide means in a fixed position relative to said base.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Cutting apparatus comprising a base, cutting means for cutting an article of plate like form received on said base, and guide means movable over the base,~~ An apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein the guide means having has relatively adjustably associated therewith article location means for adjusting, in use, the positional/angular relationship between the cutting means and the article to be cut thereby.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10; wherein the article location means defines a recess at which, in use, the article is located.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 11; wherein the recess is right-angled, with adjoining sides of the recess being lips downturned from the plane of the remainder of the article location means.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 10; wherein the article location means is pivotally mounted at the guide means.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 10; wherein the article location means is carried by a member which is ~~slideable~~ slidable along the guide means so as, in use, to move the article to be cut towards and away from said cutting means.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 10; wherein the guide means is ~~slideably~~ slidably movable over the base in a direction perpendicular to a cutting wheel defining said cutting means.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13; wherein the article location means has an arcuate slot therein through which a clamping element extends, so that when the article location means is adjustably pivoted, in use, it can be clamped in its adjusted position by said clamping element.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16; wherein the degree of angular pivotal adjustment of the article location means can be determined by the position of an indicator of the article ~~retention~~ location means relative to a scale provided at the guide means.

18. (new) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said guide means, said slidable bar, said slidable member and said locking lever are plastics mouldings.

19. (new) Cutting apparatus comprising a base, cutting means for cutting an article of plate-like form received on said base, and guide means movable over the base, the guide means having relatively adjustably associated therewith article location means for adjusting, in use, the positional/angular relationship between the cutting means and the article to be cut thereby.